

city and  
mountain

# VIEWS

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MM 97-182  
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A bi-monthly News-Magazine by and for residents of Mt. Vernon Canyon, the I-70 Foothills, in Jefferson County, Colorado.

September 22, 1997

To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Carole Lomond, Lookout Mountain resident and community service publisher

RE: MM Docket No. 87-286, National Association of Broadcasters / Association for Maximum Service Television  
petition to preempt local government land use control for HDTV tower and antenna sites

Concerns of residents living near three antenna farms on Lookout Mountain in Jefferson County have apparently been singled out by Denver television stations as an example of their "problems" with local control of land use. Lookout Mountain has provided cheap-reach for broadcasters for 45 years and they want to add more RF to the residential area they now dominate.

**Our society has changed dramatically since the early 1950s when tobacco, asbestos, DDT, and television antennas were popular.** The electromagnetic environment on Lookout Mountain is the most complex in a residential area in the nation. It is created by 500-600 transmission devices on land owned by 14 different firms. The RF devices are on land that has been platted and zoned residential since 1912. Political manipulation during the 1980s caused two tower sites to be rezoned "agricultural," but that did not move the antennas further away from residents. There are now 350 families living within one mile of the antenna farms and more than 1,000 homes within two miles. The transmitters threaten the safety of 400,000 annual visitors to three public centers and some restaurants on Lookout. The antenna farms are regarded as the greatest eyesore of the "mountain backdrop" view for all metropolitan area residents and visitors.

**Denver television stations have three alternatives to Lookout for installation of their HDTV transmitters.** They have not responded to invitations to rent space on top of tall downtown-Denver buildings, a safe two-tower site proposed for Mt. Morrison in Jefferson County, or an approved site on Squaw Mountain in Clear Creek County. Mt. Morrison is located three miles south of Lookout Mountain, is 300-feet higher, and is surrounded by permanent open space. Mt. Morrison and Squaw Mountain are accessed by private jeep roads where no people live within one mile. The Denver stations want to add more RF to their present location on Lookout which is 15-minutes from Denver, accessed by well-maintained public roads.

Lookout Mountain residents know the Denver stations expect to continue their analog antenna operations until "less than 5% of the audience no longer needs the service"—probably until the year 2050. Residents know that the HDTV channels will not *replace* analog, but will in fact, *add* a "spectrum" of five or more channels for each station. It is irresponsible to allow experimentation of this new RF technology where 600 radio frequencies already operate in a residential area.  
**Residents know that antenna owners add and add and add more RF until local government jurisdictions stop them.**

Denver television stations apparently believe it is best NOT to communicate with families living near their antennas. "Good Neighbors" communicate and care about their impact on others. Denver antenna owners have never expressed concern for the safety of residents or their impact on real estate values. Instead, their representatives have covertly contributed to "not-in-my-back-yard" protests against development of alternative sites to Lookout Mountain. These guardians of the First Amendment do not include objective information about this issue with their news broadcasts.

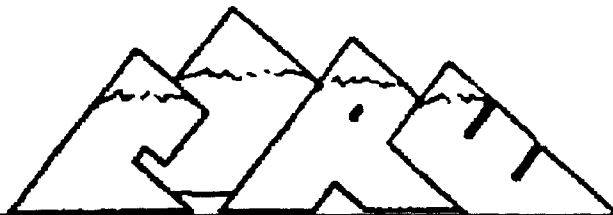
I hope this explains how the Denver television stations have created their own "land use problem" here. Based on their past behavior, it would be disastrous for them to control of land use anywhere in Colorado. As a media professional, I believe they are overlooking a unique opportunity to gain a much more loyal and appreciative audience by erring on the side of caution and respectfully moving their antennas to a site that does not threaten any Colorado resident. This act of compassion and concern for human beings would be applauded beyond the year 2050.

Respectfully,



Carole A. Lomond

Enclosures: 1) CARE letter to FCC dated August 20, 1997, 2) CARE antenna tower committee profile, 3) Lookout Mountain antenna farm license list, 4) Lookout Mountain antenna farm land owners, 5) profiles of many involved residents



*CARE is a non-profit Colorado consortium of 25 homeowner associations representing a population of 9,000 residents living in the foothills of Jefferson County known as Mt. Vernon Canyon*

**Canyon Area Residents for the Environment, 25958 Genesee Trail Road, Unit K-203, Golden, Colorado 80401**

August 20, 1997

Mr. William Caton  
Secretary to the Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Managing Director  
1919 M Street N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Mr. Caton,

On July 12, 1996, a survey of the non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation surrounding the antenna farms located on residential Lookout Mountain was conducted by Richard A. Tell. Although the average measurements of RF electric fields were within the 1992 EEI (ANSI)-Maximum Permissible Exposure limits, some "hot spots" above the standard were recorded immediately adjacent to residences. One such "hot spot" was found next to the facility owned and operated by Tribune Denver Radio. In 1995, they added a multiplex antenna to serve both KKHK and KOSI at that location. The antenna structures are within 10 feet of a public road and less than 100 feet above the ground. Another "hot spot" was recorded next to the KCFR facility. These antennas are located on land zoned residential with hundreds of residents living in close proximity to them. Our first request for your consideration is:

**1) Deny the license renewal for KOSI, KKHK, and KCFR, located on Lookout Mountain in Jefferson County, west of Denver, Colorado, until more suitable facilities can be found on commercial or industrial land.**

In addition to the above mentioned radio stations there are an estimated 500-600 transmission devices located in the Lookout Mountain antenna farms, including 10 high power UHF and VHF television facilities. Most are on residentially zoned land and all are surrounded by families living in their shadow. Because so little is actually known about the effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation and the potential health threat, we request:

**2) No license be supplied for any television station to add HDTV antennas or any other additional over-the-air services on Lookout Mountain.**

The fact that the 1996 Telecommunications Act is forcing citizens to live with potential health hazards caused by installations of the broadcast and "wireless" industries brings our third request:

**3) Funding of research beyond the "thermal effects" and of the bio-effects of radio frequency antennas installed in residential communities.**

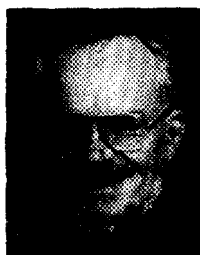
Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely, The CARE Antenna Tower Committee:  
Jerry Bowles, Karin Bull, Kevin Burke, Sister Bernadette Casciano,  
Ron Larson, Carole Lomond, Franz Roehmann, and Bob Smith

Enclosure: Radio Frequency Survey of Lookout Mountain, July, 1996, & resume summary of Richard A. Tell  
Feature on the CARE Antenna Tower Committee  
Feature on the FCC Internet list of licensees for radio frequency devices on Lookout Mountain

Copies to:  
Dr. Robert Cleveland, FCC, 2000 M Street N. W., Washington, D. C. 20554  
William Clinton, President of the United States  
Albert Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States  
U. S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell  
U. S. Senator Wayne Allard  
U. S. Representative Dan Schaefer  
Colorado Senator Sally Hopper  
Colorado Representative Tony Gramsas  
Colorado Governor Roy Romer

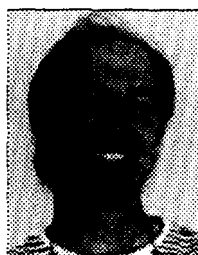
## Volunteers: CARE Antenna Tower Committee



**Ron Larson Ph D**  
- Committee Chair, Electrical Engineer specializing in electromagnetics and renewable energy



**Sister Bernadette MA** - Director of Mother Cabrini Shrine, concerned for area residents and visitors to the area



**Bob Smith BA** - Idledale artist concerned about county neglect and cumulative EMR effect on all foothills residents



**Karin Bull** - lives near largest L M antenna farm, has contributed 12 years of community volunteering and watchdogging



**Jerry Bowles MBA** - Genesee Crossing resident, retired CARE President and (federal) construction engineer



**Carole Lomond MA** - publisher of *City & Mtn Views*, has helped source information for the committee and Jefferson County



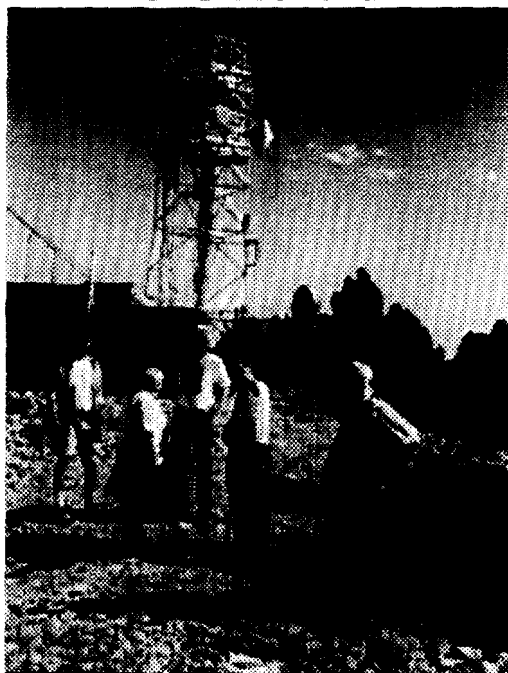
**Franz Roehman, Ph D** - present CARE President, Cody Park resident, musician and professor at CU Denver

Not shown: **Kevin Burke**, attorney and southeast Genesee resident, led unsuccessful litigation against 1988 Mt. Morrison tower proposal, believes no towers should exist on foothills mountain tops to protect the "Mountain Backdrop" and "Gateway to the Rockies;" towers should be on industrial flat land.

Volunteering during the hectic 1990s is difficult enough without having to study extremely complex subjects. But these residents are concerned enough to give loads of time and attention to evaluate the ever increasing antenna towers. The issue has been a priority since Canyon Area Residents for the Environment was incorporated in 1987 to provide a non-profit forum for residents.

Many volunteers have been involved from as early as 1980. When JeffCo approved the Channel 31 tower to be installed across Cedar Lake Road from attorney Chris O'Dell's family home in 1982, he helped the county develop the Telecommunications Land Use Plan, which was adopted in 1985. He gave hundreds of hours, writing letters, attending hearings, and on the telephone, attempting to curtail the transmission device proliferation on Lookout Mountain. Believing it was a hopeless cause, he moved to Genesee in 1991. Chris is still astounded at the complex political atmosphere and deceptive information that seems to surround the problem. "We developed six tower sites for the county plan. No one lives on the Table Mountains in Golden, which could provide a shadowless line-of-site for broadcasters. But the site became downgraded because the head of the Planning Commission lived near there," he said.

For the past 12 years, Karin Bull has been trying to persuade the county to gain control of the situation. She noted recently, "Sure, the rules they adopted in 1994 look great on paper, but that doesn't clean up the mess on Lookout. The county allows antenna owners to do what they please while homeowners have to jump through complex hoops to add a small room to their home. The county has 9 transmitters on the Channel 31 tower, so Fox Broadcasting just poured a pad (8/2/97) for an addition,



without a permit. Channel 7 just changed their analog antenna (5-7/97), but the so-called temporary antenna remains on their tower, without a permit. Tribune added another antenna to serve one more station besides KOSI (8-12/95), with a miscellaneous permit. The only reason so many of them are on Lookout is because they can be. The county is intimidated by the arrogance, money, and power of this industry."

The county health department did respond to CARE's request (12/95) for a electromagnetic radiation (EMR) survey by Richard Tell, the scientist who conducted the EPA study of Lookout in 1985. Tell is one of the 120 scientists for the American

National Standards Institute (ANSI) "Safety Levels" (based only on thermal effects, not bioeffects). His one-day survey in July, 1996, measured 3 "hot spots." "Average" measurements were within the standard.

In April, 1997, the CARE Antenna Tower Committee met several times to study methods to help the county gain more control of the farms on Lookout. They wrote the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) requesting adoption into law:

- 1) Annual registration of all transmission device owners within 2 miles of Lookout;
- 2) Regular professional monitoring of EMR with compliance procedures;
- 3) Develop a countywide comprehensive, long-term plan with various site options;
- 4) Professional environmental impact assessment of all sites in residential areas.

Members of the Committee met with the BCC on May 14 and county personnel on June 9 to further explore these requests. They toured all three Lookout Mountain antenna farms and the two-tower site on Mt. Morrison. They are constantly reviewing information related to this issue and are becoming concerned about low-power, high frequency radiation in residential environments from cell phone antennas.

The Committee met five times to discuss the Mt. Morrison proposal and a letter from an attorney representing four Denver stations who are preparing to propose another tower on Lookout for HDTV antennas.

The volunteers have learned that it is cheaper to mount antennas on mountain tops in the foothills, but not technically necessary. Broadcast antennas, land-mobile radio, cell phone transmitters, satellite dishes, and microwave transmitters also function well (with repeaters are various locations) on tall towers or buildings on flat land in industrial or commercial areas.

The Committee is supportive of a county-sponsored Symposium on this issue.



Volunteers is sponsored by  
Evergreen State Farm Agents:  
**Jim Schaedler 674-5558**  
**Phil Campbell 674-6629**  
**Ken Brumelle 674-0606**

# FCC Transmission Device Licenses on Residential Lookout Mountain (FCC estimates 500-600 devices within one mile of the Channel 7 tower)

There are 411 licenses and 226 licensees. Some licensees serve companies not listed, and some utilize more than one device. Jefferson County has 10 devices (including 3 microwaves) installed on the Channel 31 tower. Source: FCC on-line data base

## High Power (1-5 MILLION Watts) Broadcast Antennas:

### 10 Television Stations:

KCEC Channel 50

KCNC 4

KDVR 31

K57BT 57

K43DK 43

KMGH 7

KRMA 6

KTVD 19

KUSA 9

KWGN 2

### 8 FM Radio Stations:\*

KALC Shamrock

KBPI Jacor

KCFR Public Broadcast

KHHH Noble

KKHK Tribune

KOSI Tribune

KRFX Jacor

KUVO Denver Ed. Broadcast

\*All FM stations have applied for license renewal this year. There are also 4 applications to add an antenna for 88.1 MHZ, Channel 201

A & I Bolt & Nut Co  
ABC Supply Co Inc  
Action Page Inc  
Adams Rental Inc  
AD Long  
Agricultural Ditch & Reservoir Co  
AIRTOUCH Paging  
AIRTOUCH Teletrac  
Alameda Wholesale Nursery Inc  
ALLMER  
American Check Transport Inc  
Aqua Corp  
Aragon  
Arch Communications Services Inc  
Arch Southeast Communications Inc  
Ardis Company  
Ardourel Construction Co  
Area Gas Appliance Service Inc  
Artistic Excavating Inc  
Artists Angle Inc  
Arts Fertilizer & Firewood Co  
Assoc of American Railroads  
Astral Communication Inc  
A T & T  
Auto Parts Wholesale Inc  
B A J Construction  
Bear Valley Appliance  
Berkley Moving & Storage Inc  
Bob Popp Building Services Inc  
Bramstedt

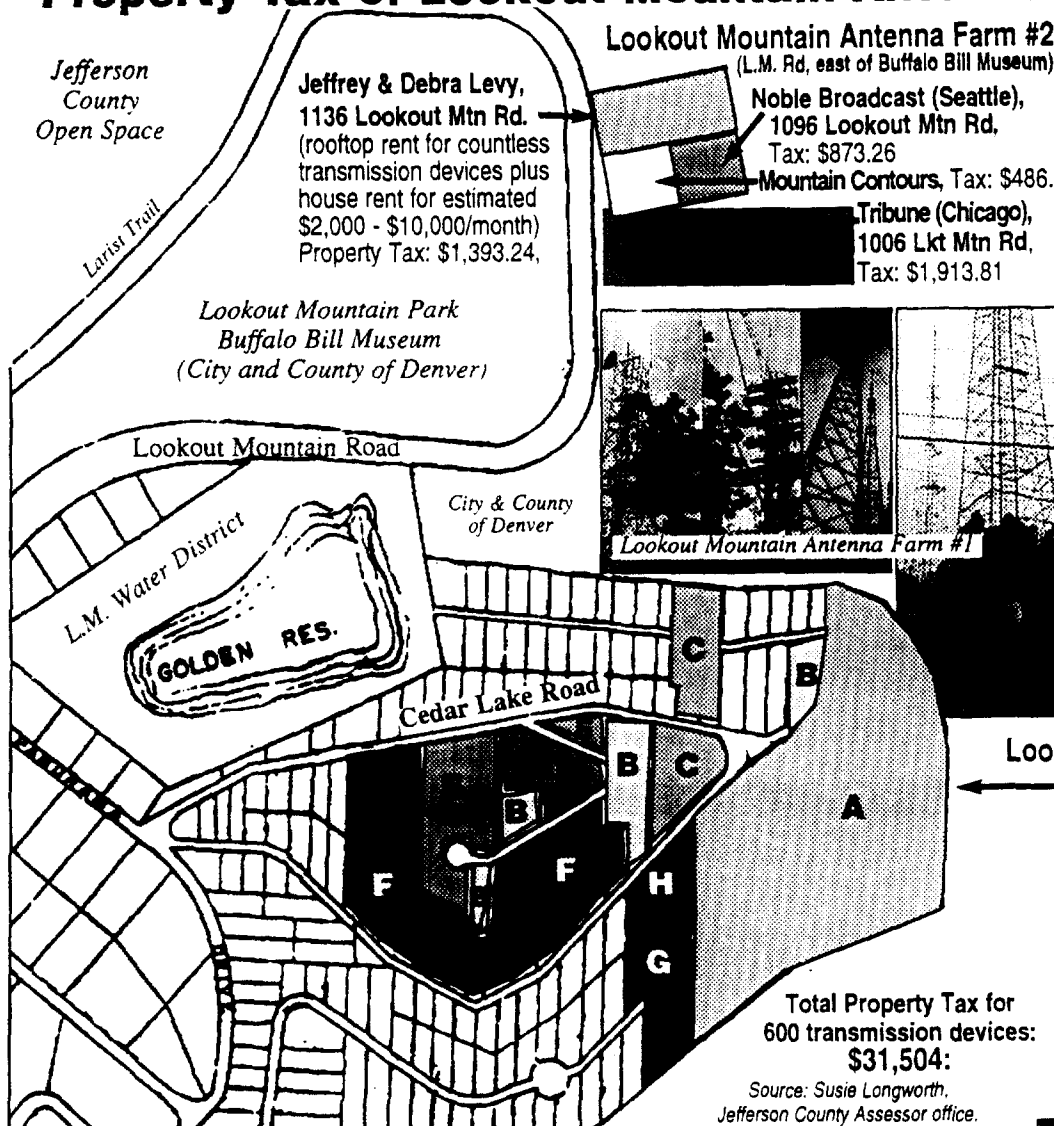
Brisehan  
Brock  
Browning Ferris Industries of CO Inc  
Bucklen Equipment Co Inc  
Buehler Moving and Storage  
Burke Broadcasting Co of Cheyenne  
Burt Toyota  
C K Angle Inc  
C R Shea & Co  
Cain T Square Ltd  
Capitol of Colorado Corp  
Cavender  
Cencall Inc  
Centennial Broadcasting Corp  
Cherry Hills Community Church  
Clark  
Colorado Power & Controls  
Combined Communications Corp  
Comnet Paging Inc  
Communications Management Inc  
Conner Construction Co  
Contact Communications Inc  
Continental Electric Inc  
Coors Brewing Co  
D and E Enterprises  
Dakota Broadcasting Co Inc  
Denver (City & County)  
Denver Drywall Co  
Denver Education Broadcasting  
Denver Heating & Air Conditioning  
Denver Public Schools  
Denver Wood Products Co  
Don Blair Excavating Inc  
Doubleday B/C Co  
EAO Glass Inc  
Ed Vigil Trucking Co  
Edwards Corporation  
Elco Drilling Inc  
Emrick & Hill Inc  
Excavating Engineering Inc  
Express Messenger Systems Inc  
Fairmount Fire District  
Fanch Cablevision of CO LP  
Fanch Communications Inc  
Faulkner  
Federal Heating Co  
Ferguson Construction Co  
Firestone Tire & Rubber Co  
First Data Corp  
Fox Television Stations  
G E Property Management Co of CO  
Gannett CO Broadcasting Inc  
General Electric Radio Services Corp  
Georgia Pacific Corp  
Golden (City)  
Golden Aluminum  
Golden Hills Broadcasting Corp\*  
Good News Heating & Air Con. Inc  
Gordon  
Grazi Communications  
Great American TV & Radio Co  
Great Southwest Dental Lab  
Great Western Plastering Co Inc  
Green Acres Nursery Inc

Group W CBS Television St. Partners  
Habitat Landscape Inc  
Hallmark Building Co  
Hammer  
Harriscop Broadcasting Corp  
Haselden Construction  
Haskin  
Industrial Transportation Service Inc  
J & K Engineering Corp  
J R Howell Co Inc  
Jackson  
Jacor Broadcasting of CO  
Jefferson County  
Jefferson County Public Schools  
Johnston  
Jones  
K G Electric Inc  
Kans Net Inc  
Kelsey  
KHOW Acquisition Corp  
KHOW/KSY Inc c/o Viacom Law  
Kilpatrick Plumbing & Heating Inc  
King Soopers Inc  
KPKE Acquisition Corp  
Laughlin & Sons Excavating Inc  
Little Valley Wholesale Nursery  
Mac Vik Plumbing & Heating Co  
Map Communications Inc  
Map Mobile Communications Inc  
Map Paging Co Inc  
MBR Electric Co  
McBride Lighting  
McCaw RCC of CO Inc  
McKay  
McKune  
McGraw-Hill Broadcasting Co  
Meggett  
Merit Truck Wrecker Service Corp  
Mobile Premix Concrete Inc  
MobileComm Nationwide Operations  
MobileComm of the Northeast  
MobileComm Wireless Holding LP  
Mobilemedia Paging Inc  
Moore  
NBC Subsidiary (KCNC-TV)  
NEXTEL License Holdings 4  
Noble Broadcast of CO Inc  
Noble Broadcast of Seattle  
North American Van Lines Inc  
North Washington St. Water & San.  
O K Tire Store of Englewood Inc  
Ocean Pacific Childrens Wear Inc  
Oldfield  
On Mark Sales Inc  
ONECOMM Corp  
ONECOMM Corp NA  
Pactel Paging Pagemart II Inc  
Pagemart Inc  
Pageprompt U S A  
Paging Network of CO  
Paging Network of CO Inc  
Paging Network of Denver  
Pallas Photo Lab Inc  
Pasterkamp Heating & Air Cond.

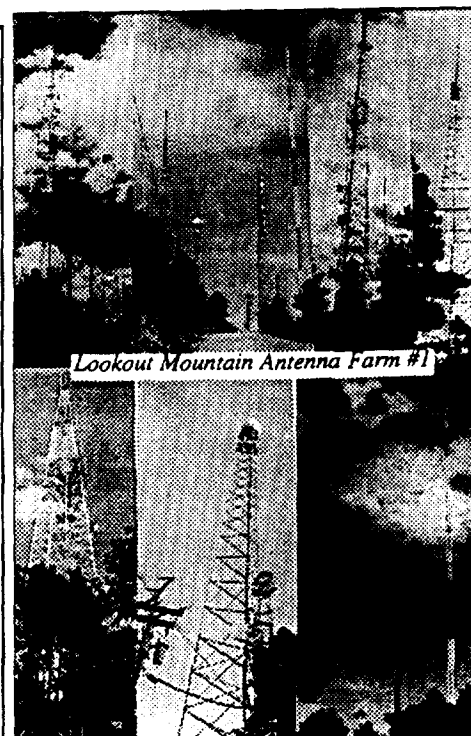
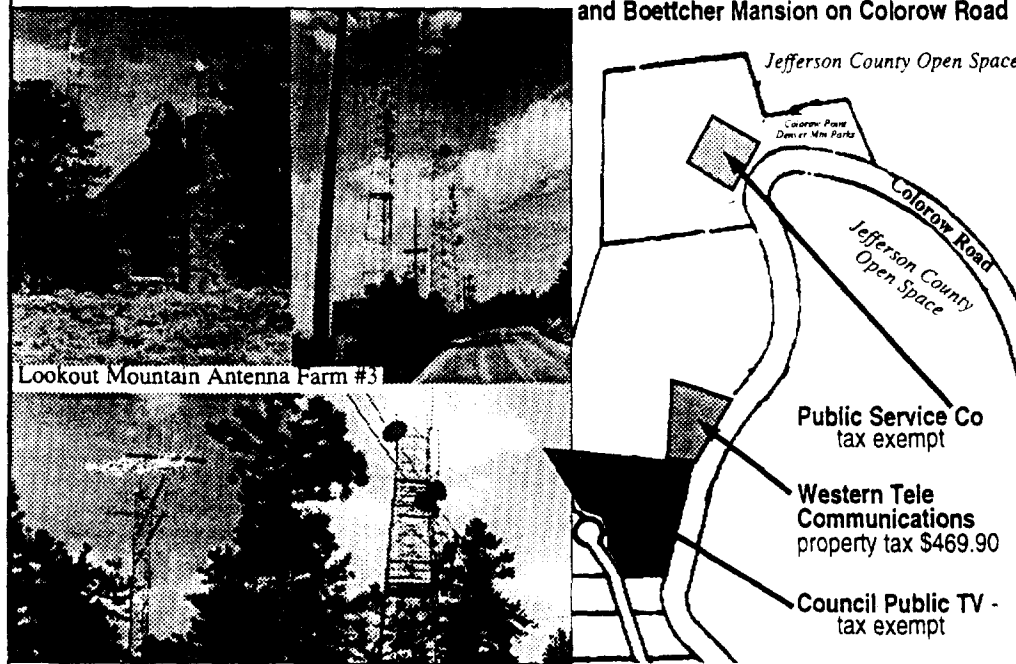
Pepsi Cola Bottling Co of Denver  
Pikes Peak Broadcasting Co\*  
Pine Nursery  
Pinkerton Security & Invest. Service  
Pinkerton Security Service Inc  
Preferred Networks Inc  
Public Broadcasting of CO  
Public Company of CO  
Public Service Co of CO  
R A Heales & Assoc LTD  
Race Towing  
Ram Mobile Data USA LP  
Ramada Inn Sports Center  
Regional Transportation Dist. of CO  
Richard OBrient Companies Inc  
Rocky Mtn Public Safety Officers  
Rose Creek Properties Ltd  
S & G Communications Inc  
Sangre De Cristo Comms Inc  
School District 1 in City & County of Denver  
School District R-1  
Secret Communications LP  
SKOW  
Skyline Cablevision  
Skytel Corp  
St Anthony Hospital Systems  
Steward  
Stowestern Distributing  
Strategic Products Corp  
Telecom Systems Inc  
TNT Dugan Inc  
Total Maintenance Inc.  
Tracy Corp IV  
Trautman & Shreve Service Inc.  
Tribune Denver Radio  
Trinity Broadcasting of Denver  
Triple P Roofing  
U S WEST Communications Inc  
Union Pacific Railroad Co  
United Cable Television of CO  
Urban Drainage & Flood Control Dist.  
US West Paging  
Valley Block  
ValueVillage Thrift Stores  
W B Construction Ward  
Web Service Co  
Weitz Cohen Construction Co  
West Metro Fire District  
Western Telecommunications Inc  
WesternWaste Industries  
Westlink Licensee Corp.  
Westlink Licensee Corporation  
WGN of Colorado Inc  
White GMC Trucks of Denver  
Wilson  
Windshields America  
Windsor Gardens Assoc  
Wyneco Communications Inc.  
Wyoming Express Co  
YMCA  
Young  
Zelinskie  
Zimmerman Architectural Metals Inc

## Controversial Issues

# Property Tax of Lookout Mountain Antenna Farm land owners



## Lookout Mountain ANTENNA FARM #3, west of Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Boettcher Mansion on Colorow Road



## Notable Neighbors



### Arte and Lili Bell Shelton

by Carole Lomond, photo by Lee Hovey King

The Sheltons enjoy a rare 1990s American luxury. They were born in Colorado and their families are still in the metro area. They enjoy close relationships with their parents and siblings, so their children, Austin and Lannie, have always known life enriched with vibrant relationships with their grandparents.

Lili and Arte were born 30 days apart (attended by the same physician). They met in 1983 while working on a film with Len Aitkin (El Rancho Notable Neighbor). Their life values are very similar. Before they married in 1986, "we agreed that one of us would stay home with our children," Lili said.

Arte is the youngest of four sons born to Hal and Mary Shelton who still live at the base of Lookout Mountain, west of Golden. Arte's Dad was usually available to answer questions as he worked at his home studio, painting maps and extraordinary landscapes, including some that hang at the Library of Congress (see Views June, 1995, pg. 18) Hal Shelton created some of the first "topo" maps for the U.S.G.S. in the 1930s, helped found the Foothills Art Center in Golden, and served on the Jefferson County Board of Education for 12 years. Mary's career was her family and community—assisting her husband, serving the League of Women Voters, and raising four sons.

The Shelton brothers developed film and television careers as actors, directors, or technical professionals (except for one who later became an attorney). Arte has been a Key Grip for 22 years. "It's hard to explain what I do," Arte said. "I work with cranes, dollies, cable... whatever is necessary to prepare the lights and cameras to film a scene. I'm a Jack-of-all-mechanical-trades on the set." Lili added, "He's like that at home... there hasn't been one thing he couldn't fix. He's amazing."

Being in the film business in Colorado is a long way from L.A., but Arte is well-known and respected in the industry and is called often. "I like the variety offered by advertising commercials. I'll be

on a ski slope one day, a meat locker the next, then maybe a Denver studio the following week," he said. During the winter, he commutes to California some, but he prefers commercials to the many weeks necessary for movie productions.

Lili Bell's paternal Grandparents operated a grocery store near City Park from the 1910s to the 1930s. Her father graduated from East High School and University of Colorado and became a real estate broker. He taught all of his three daughters (who are still very close) to play tennis. By the age of ten, Lili was a state and regional tournament ranked player and destined for the professional circuit. "A world ranked Australian pro, Leslie Hunt, took me as her protégé when I was 17. I traveled the U.S., Canada, South America, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan for about six years." Lili was one of the top 100 tennis players in the world.

Experiences while traveling around the world, and working briefly as a realtor and in the film industry, have enriched Lili's second career. Three years ago, she became active with the Society of Children's Book Writers. Her first children's book, "Sea Maidens of Japan," was published this year by Ideals, Hambleton-Hill. Her best critics are her children. Austin, age 10, enjoys building anything mechanical, bike riding, and soccer. Lannie, age 7, has become an excellent violinist after only three years of lessons.

An active volunteer parent at the Ralston school, Lili provided the students with an opportunity to give to the larger community by starting a Student Council sponsored program to benefit the Lookout Mountain Nature Center landscape project. Student art is laminated into book marks that will be available for sale when the Center opens this fall (see page 27).

Her writing projects—a screen play and more books for children—are on hold until fall while Lili is the tennis professional at Mt. Vernon Country Club this summer. "It's wonderful to be able to share my tennis expertise with neighbors and watch them blossom," she said. Her lessons are reasonable—\$30 per hour—and her students don't have to be members of the club.

The Sheltons moved to Lookout Mountain in 1992. When a small lot adjacent to them was vulnerable to development, they and three neighbors purchased it for community open space. "We had to put off building an addition to our home for a few years, but saving the land was worth it," Lili said.

Their home is about one mile from the Lookout Mountain antenna farms. "When we learned that there are 500-600 transmitters here on Lookout and that the television broadcasters are about to propose adding more, we were surprised," said Arte.

"I went to Golden High School with kids who grew up on Lookout. Although people lived here before the towers, everybody assumed they were temporary guests on residential land," Arte said. Lili added, "Since we came here in 1990, all the remaining residential lots, platted in the 1920s, have filled with new homes. The broadcasters knew families were here when they began in the 1950s and they have seen the area grow. They knew this beautiful residential land would eventually be claimed.

"Now I hear they want to add more antennas and that the county doesn't even know what is installed here. It reminds me of how tobacco and nuclear tests were safe in the 1950s. I hope the County Commissioners understand how dependent we are on their protection. We support the current petition circulating that requires removal of all the antennas from our residential area. Antennas don't belong where people are raising families."

After living in the Golden-Denver area most of their lives, Arte and Lili were drawn to Mt. Vernon Canyon because of the quality of Ralston Elementary school, the wildlife, the fresh air, mountain living close to the city, and proximity to their families. They expect to live here for many more years to come.

## Notable Neighbors



**Karin Bull**  
by Carole Lomond

Before moving to the I-70 Corridor, Karin's community involvement was mostly through baby-sitting co-ops. She is the kind of person that is most comfortable in the background, but her defense of her Lookout Mountain home near the telecommunication towers caused a nickname she considers to be a compliment: "Pitbull."

"I often felt alone, like a prop in a cowboy and Indian movie. I was the local mother bear trying to protect her cubs against well-paid Harvard-trained lawyers representing national telecommunication companies. At county hearings, they belittled me as a mere housewife until they realized I had done my homework. Then they approached me with a condescending tone. As long as I was carefully prepared, they couldn't dismantle me," she said of her battle to prevent the growth of telecommunication devices from growing on the Lookout Mountain "antenna farm."

Jim and Karin did as much research as possible before buying their home in 1985. "We went to the Golden water district that was then providing untreated water and learned about the state requirement that would force Lookout to create a water district. We read the fine print of real estate and insurance contracts. The county assured us that no more antennas would be installed and the radio frequency radiation was not a threat to our health or safety."

Within a year after moving in, U.S. West proposed a 250 ft tower for low-to-the-ground microwave receivers at an abandoned building. "We assumed the county would not allow this, but some of our Genesee neighbors supported U.S. West which began a disagreement that continues to this day. Some Genesee people want to keep them away from their view of Mount Morrison and they support more antennas for Lookout."

Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE), has consistently rejected the addition of more transmitting devices on Lookout where over 900 homes are now within a one-mile radius of the antenna farm.

"Tower area residents keep watch of the towers and communicate with one another often. 'We've had to call the county and FCC many times when companies began construction on buildings and towers without permission. 'One engineer threatened us when we took photographs of their activities from a public road at the Channel 2 tower,' she said. 'We watched Channel 9 rebuild their tower without permission during the late 1980s. I wasn't surprised recently when the county gave a miscellaneous building permit to KOSI to replace their antenna with service to two radio stations—KOSI and KVOD.'"

Karin had a formidable ally in Chris O'Dell when he lived near the towers. He was an advisor for the development of the JeffCo Telecommunications Land Use Plan which was completed in May 1985. When the plan was studied for additional recommendations in 1992, Karin was one of four "citizens" on the 28 member Advisory Committee. "Basically, it was me volunteering up against 24 well-paid telecommunication company representatives. The other three residents didn't participate much. Chris O'Dell had moved to Genesee and only came to the first meeting. Judith Pearl took notes to report to the Genesee Foundation. Greg Henika from Idledale came once and never came back. About the only thing I accomplished was to convince the county to allow a change if the ANSI standard changes." (It was lowered in 1991.)

Karin also helped close down the Medicine Man Saloon on Lookout Mountain Road and helped prevent the same owner from attempting to reopen a "pizza parlor" with a liquor license there. She can look back and laugh now. "One side of the hearing room was filled with bikers supporting the bar, and the other side of the room was filled with conservative mountain residents against it."

She has had a full time job as an insurance human resources administrator for the past four years, but has not let down her distrust of the telecommunication industry. "You really can't trust the county on this problem either. Kevin Nichols, the planner who is now in charge of the Future Plan supported U.S. West in getting their tower." Karin and her neighbors noticed a small unused antenna on the abandoned "graffiti" building disappear overnight. Then they discovered a proposal that claimed the disappearing antenna and another removed from Squaw Mountain in Clear Creek County as "take downs" for a proposed new one.

She watched Roberts Broadcasting become the owner of 30 acres from the top of Lookout down the mountain toward Golden. "They proposed exchanging a 10 X 10 X 10 abandoned building that was sliding down the mountain as comparable aggregate for a huge new building with a 750 foot tower," she said.

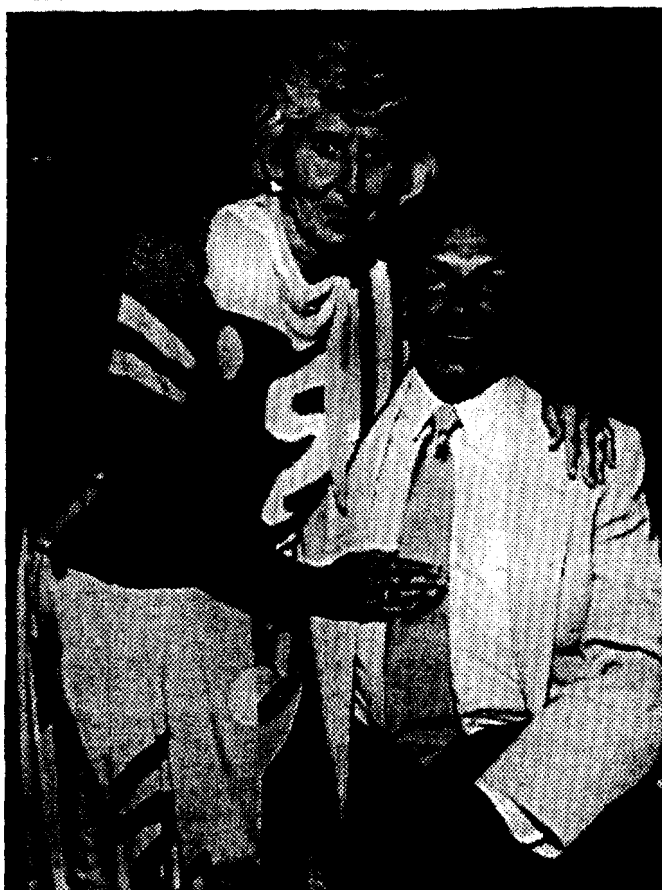
"The broadcasters are supposed to landscape around their buildings and towers but just about everything they plant dies because they don't maintain it. We have been constantly reassured by them that they are not using more power than allowed, but no unbiased measurement is done. Their attorneys always fight against the county requiring them to measure the accumulation of radiation from all the towers in the area." Karin has watched the Genesee Foundation, and metro fire, police, and rescue services battle against Roberts Broadcasting adding Channel 14 on Mt. Morrison where no residents live.

"She compares telecommunications with the tobacco industry. 'They say cigarettes have not been proven to be detrimental to human health and that radiation is not harmful to residents. The FCC, FDA, and EPA don't know what effect the addition of HDTV will have on the human body living near them 24-hours a day. Telecommunications companies ought to be required to provide an environmental impact study approved by the EPA before any more changes are allowed, and our county should be protecting our health, safety and welfare, not satisfying companies that pay little or no taxes on MR-1 zoned land,' she said.

After Karen's husband Jim completed his degree in political science, they married, worked, and traveled around the country camping. They fell in love with Colorado, packed up everything in 1973 and moved here. They have been married for 25 years and have two children, Aimee, 17, and Michael, 15, who attend Westland Christian School in Lakewood. Jim works with disabled veterans helping them secure special adapted housing through the Veteran's Administration.

"My family is first in my life. I like spending time with my children. I feel it's important to make sure children have a good start in life," she said. Her model of personal and community responsibility will no doubt serve them well.

## Notable Neighbors



**Jim & Mary Hill**

by Carole Lomond, photo provided

If Jim had not been a rebellious kid, he probably would not have become a successful businessman and survivor of serious accidents. He missed a lot of school while growing up in Denver. "I hated school. My parents would take me into the building right up to the door of my first class, and as soon as I could, I skipped," Jim admitted.

Joining the Marine Corps at the age of 17 seemed a good choice to balance to his rebellious urges until, at the age of 18, he suffered a life-debilitating spinal injury during combat in Korea. Physicians gave him five years to live, but within two years of physical therapy at the Veteran's Hospital in Chicago, Jim wheeled out to find work. In 1955, a supply company was willing to give him an opportunity to prove he could do the job. After that first success, he went into the "trucking business," directing movement of sand and gravel at a gravel pit owned by a construction company.

In 1965, Jim moved to Long Beach, CA, and established a successful printing business for seven years. After his first marriage ended, he moved back to Denver. He was delighted to rediscover Mary at a gathering of mutual friends. Jim and Mary grew up in the same neighborhood and have known one another since they were seven

years old. Mary was a widow at the time and worked as a part-time bookkeeper while raising her three children.

"When I first saw Jim in his wheel chair, his condition upset me. I did the best I could to avoid him, but he kept calling me. He knew I liked the Broncos and convinced me to go to a game with him," she said. Jim added gleefully, "I swept her off her feet. We were married within a year."

Jim was a 14-state director of programs for the Paralyzed Veteran's of America from 1975 to 1984. He survived eight surgeries for prostate cancer and became the director of customer relations for Gene Osborn auto agencies 1984-1987. After living near Rolling Hills golf club for 17 years, the Hills moved to a high rise in Denver for a year. But Mary had always yearned to live in the moun-

tains and the city was not for her. So they purchased a lot in Riva Chase and had contractor Ralph Santanegro, a mutual friend since childhood, build their dream home which was completed in February, 1993.

In July, 1993, they were entertaining two couples, including two people who also move by wheelchair, when Jim's motorized chair became uncontrollable. "I was going up Anasazi Way with two friends when I heard a strange clicking sound. Suddenly, my chair did a 180 turn and took off down the street too fast for me to roll out. It raced down a cliff. I fell out and the chair landed on top of me," he said.

Jim fought for his life in intensive care for a week. His hip was broken and the 250-pound chair caused serious internal injuries. His survival was a miracle because he could barely breathe. Perhaps the internal rebellious kid spirit helped him recover. After 30 days in the hospital, he returned to Riva Chase.

An investigator determined that radio frequency interference (RFI) from the antennas on Lookout Mountain and a cell phone transmitter on Grapevine Road caused his wheelchair to "malfunction." Jim explained, "People need to get their priorities straight. It's not the appearance of these towers and transmitters that matters. It's the chaotic electromagnetic environment they produce that's dangerous."

In 1993, two television news segments featured "Radio Frequency Interference"—Eye to Eye with Connie Chung (ABC) and The Market Place (Canadian Broadcast Company). Both featured Jim as part their investigative reports. In Colorado, the Rocky Mountain News published a feature on Jim Hill's traumatic experience in 1994. No local television or radio stations reported the accident.

The national television segments emphasized the dramatic increase of electromagnetic energy waves over the past ten years that is causing mayhem for aircraft instruments, medical equipment (such as ventilators, pacemakers, and hearing aids), and numerous other wireless remote control devices.

Electrical power lines, microwave ovens, garage doors, vehicle cruise control, two-way radios, cell phones, radio and television antennas, and satellite signals are causing a chaotic electromagnetic environment. Of the limited research that has been conducted, some indicates it is harmful to humans and some indicates it is not. The Federal Drug Administration now requires "warning" literature to accompany the sale of medical devices vulnerable to radio frequencies.

The Canadian government exercises complete control of all transmitters and antennas. In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission sells licenses and assigns frequencies. Local government—municipalities, counties, or federal agencies (U.S. Forest Service, etc.)—are responsible for site zoning and enforcing electromagnetic radiation standards. Concentrated "Antenna Farms" or limited "consolidated" towers, with plenty of miles in between, are the choice of local elected officials.

Jim doesn't wheel around his neighborhood much any more. The Hills have stayed in their Riva Chase dream home because electromagnetic interference exists in nearly every neighborhood today. "My chair has a special device that is supposed to prevent radio frequency interference, but I still don't feel safe. I drive to the Golden Recreation Center every morning to work out and attend mass at Mother Cabrini Shrine. I couldn't believe the JeffCo Planning Commission voted to allow another transmitter here. All I-70 Corridor residents need to ask the Board of County Commissioners: How much is enough?"

*Note: this interview occurred before the BCC rejected a proposal for a third cell antenna tower on June 3, but another is proposed by others. See page 26.*

## Notable Neighbors

### Chris O'Dell

by Carole Lomond, photo by Mountain Splendor

Within two years after Chris and his wife Sue moved to Lookout Mountain in 1982, a new, 350-foot television tower for Channel 31 was installed across the street from their home. Chris spent the next seven years campaigning against Channel 14 becoming another thousand-foot tower there! That proposal was defeated three times by the County Commissioners, a decision which was finally upheld by the Colorado Court of Appeals. During this time, Chris was busy developing a law practice and Sue pursued her career as a perinatal home-visiting Nurse Practitioner for Kaiser Permanente. Also during this time their two children, Erin and Kelley, were born and began school. As their children grew and their careers became more demanding, the O'Dells looked for a larger and more appropriate home.

They moved to the Genesee Foundation area in 1991 because there were fewer choices on Lookout and they wanted covenants that restrict land use. Their initial reluctance to cross the highway changed when they found a "lucky situation with families like ours living on the same street. Erin, 11, and Kelley, 8, can play with neighborhood kids so we don't have to drive them around so much," said Chris.

He grew up in Aurora with an acute awareness of political issues because his mother, Mary Thurber, helped start a weekly newspaper, *The Aurora Sun*, in the early 1970s. In 1982, he was JeffCo chairman of Natalie Meyer's successful campaign for Secretary of State. He convinced some Evergreen High School students to telephone 3,000 voters on Meyer's behalf. The students were elated when she won by 3,000 votes.

"It was exciting to give young people an opportunity to participate in politics. They loved it!" Chris said. "If they are involved in civic affairs early, they're more likely to be involved as adults. I'm concerned about future political leadership because senior citizens are getting burned out and boomers are too busy. It's frustrating because few good people will run for public office any more."

When asked if he plans to run for political office, he said, "I'm not politically ambitious for myself personally but I enjoy helping others win. I love the challenge of developing a campaign strategy that works." He was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Party in 1985 and Chairman in 1989.

In 1992, he was a delegate to the national convention and this was a turning point for him. "Sue and I were very turned-off by the radical, exclusionary nature of the convention. When we came home we had to decide whether we wanted to remain Republicans. We decided we weren't Democrats, so we stuck with the Republican Party." Chris decided that his position on some issues was badly needed by his party.

He became a board member of the National Republican Coalition for Choice and Colorado Republicans for Choice. "It's not realistic for the party to take a position opposed to the vast majority of Americans on this issue. The choice to have an abortion is never easy. Under some conditions, choosing to give birth may be socially dysfunctional, morally irresponsible, and even cruel. That choice should not be made by government."

In 1994, he worked with several moderate Republican primary candidates. "We won three of those primaries and lost two others by less than 200 votes. Moderate Republicans can win in this state if given the right backing and tools," he said.

Chris and two other attorneys founded Moss, Morris & O'Dell, P.C. in 1992. "Starting your own firm from scratch is both exhilarating and frightening at the same time," said Chris, who had a mere ten days notice that his old firm was about to dissolve. He



specializes in real estate, oil and gas, and corporate law for his clients. "I enjoy real estate work. When I fought the towers, I became intrigued with historical records of property." While performing one title search he discovered that the L. M. Mountsfield area had been platted in the early 1900s for a European-style Grand Hotel with a sports complex.

He is a member and former trustee of the Rockland Church and was President of the Lookout Mountain Civic Association 1983-86. "I represented the homeowners on various committees and during county land use hearings. I helped defeat several inappropriate proposals for Lookout Mountain."

Before becoming a member of the Genesee Foundation board last year, he helped defeat the proposed clubhouse renovations which were voted down by residents in 1993. In 1994, he spearheaded the effort to obtain resident approval to move the weight room to the Foothills Clubhouse to free up more space at Vista. Recently, he was the only dissenting vote on the board's decision to renovate and improve Vista without a residential vote.

"The original proposal has been scaled back and I personally support it, but I would like the residents to vote before we spend over \$280,000 of their money. We do need to update and modernize Vista and we must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ramps and an elevator will cost \$80,000 alone, but I still would rather have formal approval of the community."

"Genesee has changed a lot over the last few years. Most original residents were one-income families or couples without children. Now, two career families with children are moving in and Genesee has become more transient because people seem to be changing careers and companies more often. We've been in our home for four years, and only a few families on our block have been here longer."

The O'Dells are busy and savor time with their family. "Sue and I were raised as suburban kids. Genesee is very comfortable for us. We like the covenants and the amenities."